

# SUBSTANCE ABUSE TREATMENT FACT SHEET

## Massachusetts Department of Public Health, Bureau of Substance Abuse Services

### February, 2002

*This fact sheet contains information about the impact of alcohol and other drug use in the Ninth Essex Representative District. Admission data were reported to the Bureau of Substance Abuse Services (BSAS) Substance Abuse Management Information System in FY 2001.*

### Residents of Ninth Essex Representative District

#### **Treatment Admissions:**

In FY 2001, there were 120,687 admissions to licensed substance abuse treatment services in all of Massachusetts. Of these, 2.7% (3,237) reside in the Ninth Essex Representative District. Due to budget cuts in FY 2002, BSAS estimates that 19% (615) of Ninth Essex Representative District residents will not be able to access treatment services. **Please note that these statistics represent only individual admissions, and represent a figure lower than the actual number of constituents in need of treatment services.**

- In FY 2001, 70.7% of admissions from the Ninth Essex Representative District were male and 29.3% were female.
- Over 59.6% of admissions were between the ages of 21-39.
- 72.7% of admissions were white non-Latino, 10.5% were black non-Latino, 11.7% were Latino, 1.3% were Asian, and 3.8% were other racial categories.
- 67.7% of those admitted to treatment were never married, 12.0% were married, and 13.6% reported not to be married now.
- 33.8% of admissions had less than high school education, 47.9% completed high school, and 18.4% had more than high school education.
- 24.1% of those admitted to treatment were employed.
- 19.5% of those admitted were homeless.
- 11.4% of admissions had prior mental health treatment.

#### **Substances Used in Past Year:**

Upon entering treatment, each client is asked to report ALL substances used in the past year (12 months) prior to admission. Admissions frequently report using more than one substance within the year. The use of more than one psychoactive substance, such as alcohol and marijuana, is referred to as 'polydrug' or 'polysubstance' use. For example, individuals who use cocaine, crack and heroin also may report the use of either alcohol and/or marijuana.

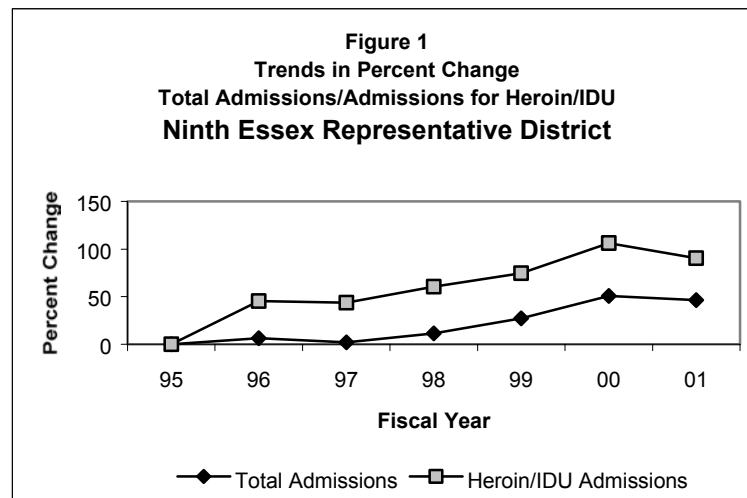
- Table 1 shows ALL substances which clients reported using in the year prior to admission, including the prevalence of injection drug use (IDU) in the Ninth Essex Representative District. Injection drug users (or IDU's) are individuals who use a needle to ingest cocaine, crack, heroin or another drug to get high.

<b>Table 1</b> <b>Annual Admissions by Substance Used</b> <b>FY 1995 – FY 2001</b>							
<b>Ninth Essex Representative District</b>							
	Total	Alcohol	Marijuana	Cocaine	Crack	Heroin	IDU
<b>FY '95</b>	2,211	1,615	602	896	740	755	426
<b>FY '96</b>	2,351	1,663	678	935	776	1,033	685
<b>FY '97</b>	2,258	1,633	653	747	537	992	707
<b>FY '98</b>	2,463	1,687	686	733	413	1,136	761
<b>FY '99</b>	2,814	2,008	846	868	443	1,209	853
<b>FY '00</b>	3,334	2,371	982	923	424	1,405	1,031
<b>FY '01</b>	3,237	2,090	822	762	305	1,324	925

- Since dropping in FY 1997, residents of Ninth Essex Representative District reported an increase in alcohol and heroin use. Alcohol use increased by 27% and heroin use by 33%.
- Between FY 1995 and FY 2001, admissions reporting marijuana use increased by 36%, while cocaine and crack use decreased by 14% and 58%, respectively.

### Heroin and Injection Drug Use:

Figure 1 below shows the proportional increases in all admissions in the Ninth Essex Representative District and the proportional increase in admissions reporting heroin and injection drug use, a factor driving increases in HIV<sup>1</sup>.



- Total treatment admission for all modalities rose 46% between FY 1995 and FY 2001. During the same period, admissions for heroin and injection drug use treatment increased by 90%.

### Primary Substance of Use:

At admission clients also identify a “primary drug” of use which is the substance currently causing them the most problems.

- Table 2 compares the proportional distribution of primary drugs in Massachusetts with that for the Ninth Essex Representative District.

	Alcohol	Heroin	Marijuana	Cocaine	Crack
District	35.6%	36.9%	8.1%	5.9%	2.7%
State	46.5%	35.9%	6.5%	3.9%	3.4%

- While alcohol and crack as a primary drug of use in your Representative District was lower than the State average, heroin, marijuana and cocaine was higher within your District.

<sup>1</sup> The Schneider Institute for Health Policy, Brandeis University, 2000